

**Question 1 -- William Taylor**

There was no OSS agent named William Taylor in Paris at the time of the liberation.

**Question 2 -- Baron Eric Posch-Pastor de Camperfelden**

The files contain a report on the mission to the Americans organized by the Swedish consul general on which this man served and a later resume of information about him. Copies of these are enclosed.

**Question 3 -- Laval's use of Herriot to form an acceptable government**

The files contain only a Provisional Government hand-out of 30 August 1944, of which a copy is enclosed. Some historical citations are Willis Thornton, The Liberation of Paris, (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1962) pp. 121 and 123; France during the German Occupation, 1940-1944, Volume II (Stanford University, 1957), pp. 1017 and 1019; and Volume III, pp. 1175-6.

**Question 4 -- Secret Intelligence teams around Paris**

The contemporary records show that ten two-man -- one "observer," one radio operator -- teams were operating in and around Paris at the time of liberation, having gone in at various dates between mid-May and early July. They collected information on order of battle, transport movements, bombing target locations, and the like and sent it by radio to London, where it was collated and reported back to the invading forces. There seem to have been no spectacular individual items of intelligence; the important thing was the cumulation of minutiae which enabled OSS London, for example, to meet an 18 August request from the American armies advancing on Paris for information on all German military depots in the area. The after-action reports from the teams have considerable dramatic interest, however, and some excerpts from these are enclosed as a sampling of their flavor.

Baron Erich Posch-Pastor von (or de) Camperfelden was born 15 June 1915 in Innsbruck, Austria. He is the only child of Erich, Elder von Posch, a civil engineer, and the former Maria Pastor de Camperfelden. His father (and perhaps both parents) was residing at Clemensstr. 32, Munich, West Germany, as of 1963. In 1945, Posch-Pastor married Silvia Rodriguez de Rivas, née Castilleja. The granddaughter of a former president of Ecuador, she was the widow of the Duc de Castellan, and had been divorced from his uncle, Paul Archambault, Duc de Talleyrand et Valencay. Posch-Pastor's grandfather was at one time the Austrian Minister to the Vatican and wrote a history of the Popes.

At the time of the Anschluss, Posch-Pastor, who had been preparing for a diplomatic career, was a lieutenant in the Austrian Army. He was imprisoned at Dachau for several months but was serving in the German Army by 1942. In August 1944, he was a member of a five-man delegation organized by the Swedish Consul in Paris for the purpose of contacting the commanders of the Allied Forces to arrange for the capitulation of Paris. There are conflicting and unconfirmed accounts about his having worked with the resistance and for Allied intelligence.

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## Mission Charles (at Le Bourget)

### Report of Observer

...Thanks to these informers and to the local resistance group, very little of military significance in my assigned sector escaped me during the months of June, July, and August. But the theft of our equipment and particularly the loss of the crystals for the W/T set were a great handicap. Our means of getting out information was by Klaxon /short-range voice radio to operator in aircraft/ which could make one contact in three. Thus it was that when Operator Chaloner received replacement crystals we were 2500 code groups behind. In spite of daily Klaxon contacts, we were never able to send through all our traffic and I still have in my possession about 800 code groups of intelligence items that were important on the date they were coded but never sent.

In all fairness, I must admit that without the help of the resistance movement I would not have been able to set up my organization so quickly. However, this acquaintance with the "resistance" was dangerous to us as regards security and barely missed costing me my life.

On Sunday, 13 August, when the National Front had organized a small patriotic demonstration in honor of the rapid advance of the Allies, the local FFI, thinking that their time had come, started a premature operation in which two automobiles full of FFI members took part. The Germans, always well informed, were on the spot at the same time as these cars, and a lively fusillade took place. The men of the FFI, fewer in number and poorly armed, had to retire and the Germans were able calmly to commence a long series of searches in all quarters; the house in which my Klaxon and my CP were located became a particular target. It was because of this that I throughout the whole of that Sunday, had to stay in a garden drain, and that I thought it best to leave the town of Livry-Gargan the next day with my Klaxon. This latter, moreover, had been hunted by a radio-detection airplane which had made the rounds from the first day I had set up the installation, and on this date - 13 August - it had with it two radar-equipped Gestapo planes which were visibly checking the quarter with a fine-tooth comb.

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This explains my moving the Klaxon to a place almost as dangerous in the parish of Aulnay-sous-Bois, at the home of Doctor Perlis, 5 rue Dumont. The situation at his house was ideal, and the production was perfect. I worked there several days, until the night of 17/18 August. That evening, returning from Paris, I found there two young FFI men, Louis Barrault and Pierre Gastaud, who were to assure my protection during my contact. I set up my Klaxon, and at about 12:45 a.m. the two FFI's took up guard outside. My contact was very bad. Moreover, I felt uneasy, feeling that there was some hostile presence outside. I forced myself to believe that it was mere childishness on my part and tried to get over it. At about 2:15 a.m. I went out on the front step where the two FFI's were. I asked them if they had noticed anything unusual and they said that everything was quiet. I searched the darkness and thought I saw a shadow where the grillwork joined the wall. I very quietly told the FFI's about it, but they said that it was only the shrubbery moving in the wind.

Then I leaned over the balcony and suddenly I was held in the luminous beam of a very powerful flashlight. I was in shirtsleeves and socks. I told the FFI's, "We're surrounded, let's get away from here fast!" They still were not worried. I went back into the house and was just picking up my Colt .45 when four German hand grenades were thrown into the room through a window that was partly open. The explosions threw me to the ground violently twice without wounding me, unless one counts my right big toe. We dashed out the back of the house at the moment that the Germans entered through the garden gate. ...Hotly pursued, we arrived in front of the big wall separating the Secours National Park from a neighboring property next to the tracks of the freight station of Aulnay. We all three tried to scale this wall. I made two unsuccessful attempts and told the FFI's that I was going to try it further away.

I was able to get over the wall of this property about 20 metres further down and then through the iron fence which gave on to the street and the tracks. At this moment the Germans, who were posted on both sides of the block near the tracks, fired at me at a distance of 10 metres and missed me. I crossed all the tracks and came to another grille giving on a street on the other side of the station, which I climbed over. At this moment, two other Germans with machine-guns woke up to what was going on and fired. Luckily, in climbing over the grille, I had fallen flat on my face behind a

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small cement parapet which caused all the bullets to ricochet. When their magazines were empty, I got up again and ran off in the direction of the nearby houses. ...I got into a house where the grille was half open and met a woman who, seeing that I was going to bring her a lot of grief, told me, "Don't come in here, beat it, get out of here". I threatened her with my pistol begging her to "shut it" and went up to the 4th floor by a back staircase. I stayed there all the remainder of the night, holding in one hand my Colt and in the other my potassium cyanide pill while the dragnet was out all over the quarter and all the nearby houses were searched, with the exception of the one I was in. I later learned that the two young FFI's who had been my protection had been shot, after having been disgustingly tortured, without having spoken. ...

#### Report of Operator

... For about the last eight days of the German occupation, it was often impossible for me to get my batteries charged because of police raids and of the systematic shooting of anyone who was seen in the streets. On 23 August, the day Paris was liberated, the Germans were shooting anyone found on the streets at Drancy and other Paris suburbs. After the Allies had passed through Drancy, we were able to get a ride to Paris with an FFI doctor. We were stopped at two or three FFI blockades on the road to Paris and our papers checked. ...

#### Mission Plutarque (at Melun)

... A bridge which would be useful to the Americans crossed the Loire and canal near Souppes. It was being defended by the FFI against a German attack as the Americans approached. The FFI resistance was weakening. Operator Beignet took a car and drove as fast as he could to meet the Americans. Telling them of the bridge, he urged them to hurry. An American army officer sent some light tanks and the Germans fled. Beignet did not identify himself as belonging to OSS, but merely informed the Americans of the situation regarding the bridge.

After meeting with the Americans, we returned through the German lines to Melun. Bessonne had his maps in his trousers and the radio crystals were sewed into one of the

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trenchcoats. Stopped by a patrol near Fontainebleau we showed our papers, said that the Americans were coming and that we were going to a new place to work. The Germans asked: "Have you seen the Americans?" We replied, "No, but their arrival has been promised a long time". The Germans laughed and let us go.

At Melun we contacted the chief of the FFI and asked him if he had sufficient forces to defend two bridges which the Germans had mined - the Germans had placed 7 torpedoes on each bridge and had posted guards. The FFI forces believed that they could shoot the guards and hold out for about a half-hour. Bessonne was about to send a message to the Americans to hurry, but learned that they were already near. We located them and rushed up to a lieutenant in a tank, but he proved unable to understand French. We were referred to a captain who also could not speak French and had never heard of OSS. We were unable to deliver the message, and the Germans blew up the bridges, as the FFI had apparently taken no action.

#### Mission Coupé (at Epernay)

...At no time were we under suspicion, nor did we have any close shaves.

#### Principal intelligence obtained:

1. V-1 depot in the Rilly tunnel (between Vauremont and Rilly); results of its bombardment; appraisal of activities within the tunnel.
2. Railway Report: daily train traffic; reports on cutting of rail lines and traffic interruptions.
3. Airdrome Report: full report on work on munition and gasoline dumps at these airdromes.
4. Percentage of foreigners among the German troops, as requested by GHQ.
5. Report on armament factories being installed in the Mercier cellars and tank motor depots at the Mercier plants.
6. Search for launching ramps, as requested by GHQ - nothing reported.

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Prior to our arrival at Epernay, Allied planes, on the basis of French intelligence reports, had bombed a tunnel north of Epernay on the railroad line. This tunnel was a storage depot and loading platform for flying bombs. Operator Digne reported that the bombing had failed to eliminate the target, and, on the basis of this intelligence, a second bombing took place which caused such damage that the Germans abandoned the tunnel.

Frequent messages were sent on the concentration of rail traffic in the Epernay sector. As a result of this intelligence, P-38's on several occasions bombed the rail lines and train yards. These same P-38's shot up the water towers which aroused the anger of the French as it deprived them of their only water supply. Criticism was also directed against what appeared to be the unnecessary bombing, by B-17's, of Rilly, north of Epernay. As the Epernay-Rilly railway line had already been cut and an ammunition train blown up, there was no other military objective in Rilly. Many people were killed as a result of this raid.

We were overrun 28 August 1944, when the Allies entered Epernay. Allied troops moved through the town so fast that no contact was made with Allied intelligence officers for two days. The CIC finally made contact with us on 30 August, requesting us to report the following morning; but upon reporting, it was found that CIC had already moved on. On 31 August, we made contact with the CIC captain, and after three days of persistent argument were able to convince him that we still had valuable intelligence to report. In all, there was a four-day delay in getting the intelligence, which dealt with German troop concentrations and movements, to Staff Headquarters.

**THE FRENCH PRESS AND INFORMATION SERVICE**

**An Agency of the Provisional Government of the French Republic**

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**Document série II- No. 1335 F.  
Le 30 Août 1944.**

**NOUVELLES DU PRESIDENT HERRIOT**

**Nouvelles de France.**

**Le Président Edouard Herriot, ramené à Paris par la Gestapo sur la demande de Laval a été soumis, par ce dernier et par les Allemands à un chantage scandaleux.**

**L'offre lui fut faite par Laval, manifestement d'accord avec les Allemands, de former un gouvernement destiné à sauver Vichy. M. Herriot s'est refusé catégoriquement à prendre en considération les offres de Laval.**

**Ayant persisté dans son refus en dépit des injonctions et des menaces, il a été emmené par l'ennemi dans la direction de l'Est. Avant son départ, M. Herriot a laissé une note écrite de sa main dans laquelle il déclare:**

**"Je suis arrêté de nouveau pour n'avoir pas voulu céder aux exigences allemandes et au chantage de Laval".**

**Au moment de la remise de cette note, plusieurs personnes de son entourage lui ont suggéré qu'il lui serait peut-être possible d'obtenir un sort plus doux. M. Herriot a répondu que son devoir était de partager le sort des anciens Présidents de Conseil et des centaines de milliers de Français déportés en Allemagne.**

**(Service d'information, Londres, le 28 Août 1944 Cable No. 2090.)**

**J.**

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**Photocopy of non-OSS document  
enclosed with FA 141 of 12 October 1944**

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Subject was born on 25 August 1915 at Innsbruck, the son of Eric Posch (Austrian diplomat and minor nobleman) and Maria Pastor de Camperfelden.

In 1938 he was preparing for a diplomatic career and was a lieutenant in the Austrian Army. There are conflicting accounts of his activities from this time until 1942. One report states that, refusing to accept the Anschluss, he left his country and took refuge in Italy with his parents. Another indicates that he was sent to Dachau for ten months for having ordered his troops to fire on the Germans. Various sources agree, however, that Posch-Pastor was conscripted into the German army as a soldier in 1942. He later obtained a commission through the influence of an uncle. He was sent to the Russian front, wounded, placed in non-combat category, and subsequently stationed in France (Paris and Niort, Deux Sevres) with the supply section and factory-inspection branch of the German Army.

Again there are contradictory reports on subject's activity. All sources confirm that he was in touch with French resistance, one report stating that in late 1943 he worked with an intelligence network of the FFI. Another states that Posch-Pastor, officially a Wehrmacht officer, was at the same time working for the DGER in Paris, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Medaille de la Resistance.

A member of the French Resistance says that about June 1944 subject sought employment at Abwehr headquarters in the Hotel Lutetia in Paris, but was rejected.

In July 1944 he was in Italy, working with the maquis, but returned to Paris because of a warning that the Germans were searching for him.

Subject's claims of service for British and American intelligence have been investigated, but no verification has been found.

In March 1945 Posch-Pastor married Silvia Rodriguez de Rivas, born July 1907, widow of the Duc de Castellan and divorced from the latter's uncle, the Duc de Talleyrand.

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